

**Fact Sheet**  
**March 2004**

# Area 514 Facility is Planned to Close

**LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY**

*DTSC is one of six  
Boards and  
Departments within  
the California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency.  
The Department's  
mission is to restore,  
protect and enhance  
the environment,  
to ensure public health,  
environmental  
quality and  
economic vitality,  
by regulating  
hazardous waste,  
conducting and  
overseeing  
cleanups, and  
developing  
and promoting  
pollution prevention.*

State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (the Department) has prepared this fact sheet to inform you about the proposed closure of the Area 514 Treatment and Storage Facility (Area 514 Facility) at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (the Lab) in Livermore, California.

The Lab has submitted a draft Closure Plan to the Department detailing how the proposed closure and demolition will occur at the Area 514 Facility. The Department has evaluated whether or not implementing the draft Closure Plan will have a negative effect on human health or the environment. These results are included in a document called an Initial Study. Based on the results of the Initial Study, the Department plans to issue a Negative Declaration, which states that implementing the Closure Plan will not harm human health or the environment.

It is important that you are able to review and comment on the draft Closure Plan, draft Initial Study, and proposed Negative Declaration. This fact sheet will summarize the proposed project, inform you where you can find more information, and explain how to give us your comments.

## **Public Comment Period**

**Starts: March 12, 2004**  
**Ends: April 12, 2004**

**DTSC is accepting  
public comments on  
the draft Closure Plan,  
draft Initial Study, and  
the draft Negative  
Declaration for the  
Area 514 Facility at  
Lawrence Livermore  
National Laboratory.  
All written comments  
should be sent to:**

**Mike Stanek**  
**DTSC Sacto. Office**  
**8800 Cal Center Drive**  
**Sacramento, CA 95826**

[mstanek@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:mstanek@dtsc.ca.gov)

## **What's Inside**

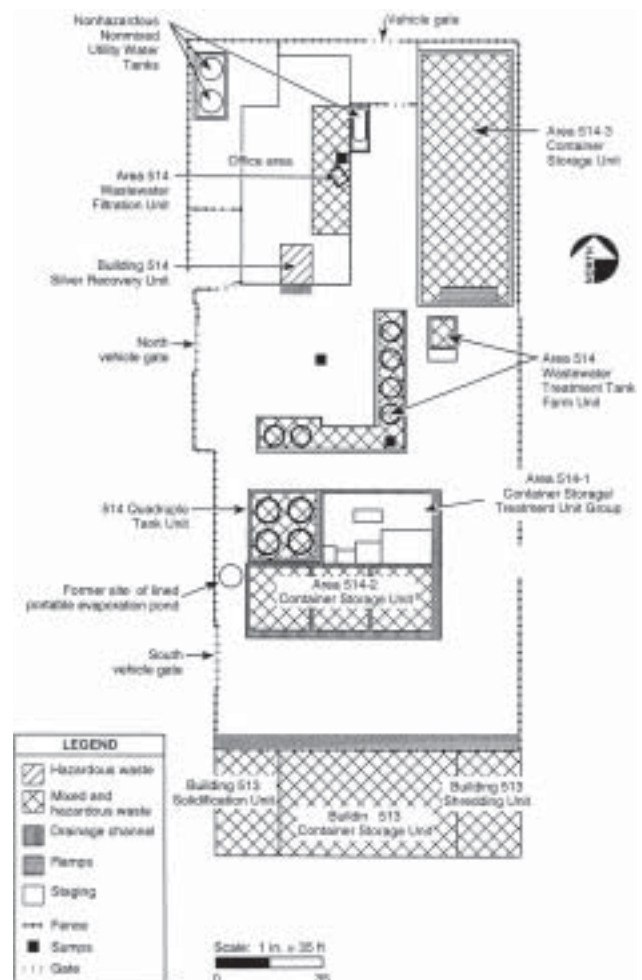
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*Area 514 Wastewater Treatment Tank Storage Unit*

## AREA 514 FACILITY WAS USED FOR WASTE TREATMENT AND STORAGE

Buildings at the Area 514 Facility were used by the U.S. Navy between 1943 and 1952 as a test and repair facility, and to clean aircraft engines. In 1952 the U.S. Department of Energy acquired the property, including Area 514 Facility, and used it for storage and treatment of hazardous and radioactive waste. The 28,000 sq. ft. facility is composed of buildings 513 and 514 used for waste treatment and storage, a container storage and treatment area, and two tank storage areas. The Lab is proposing to demolish the building 514 since a more modern building, the Decontamination and Waste Treatment Facility, has recently been built elsewhere at the Lab to process hazardous and radioactive waste. Unless contamination is found that cannot be cleaned in building 513, this building will remain standing but will no longer be used for waste handling.



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## **CLOSING THE FACILITY WILL REQUIRE MANY STEPS**

A transition plan was submitted to close the Area 514 Facility and other areas in conjunction with startup of the new treatment facility. This plan was included in the site-wide Hazardous Waste Facility Permit issued to the Lab in November, 1999. The Department approved the Permit with the understanding that the specific details of each closure would be reviewed at a more appropriate time.

Closure activities will include:

- removal of any remaining waste from the Area 514 Facility
- sampling of structures and soil
- transfer of a portion of the processing equipment to the new facility
- disposal of a portion of the processing equipment and
- the removal of structures from the area

### **Waste Removal**

Waste contaminated with hazardous material found at the Area 514 Facility will either be transported to the new Decontamination and Waste Treatment Facility on-site, or will be transported to authorized off-site facilities. Any hazardous waste transported off-site will comply with all regulations and must have a uniform hazardous waste manifest.

### **Sampling of Structures and Soil**

Extensive sampling and analysis of the buildings and equipment within the Area 514 Facility will be conducted. Sampling is done to find out what contamination exists on the facility and to see if any waste has leaked into the soil. After waste has been removed, we also use sampling to check that we cleaned the site adequately. Detailed information on these activities can be found in the Sampling and Analysis Plan section of the Closure Plan.

### **Transfer of Processing Equipment**

The main building at the Area 514 Facility contains different kinds of equipment, sometimes

called “treatment units”, which treat the hazardous waste. Six of the treatment units located in the Area 514 Facility will be transported to the new Decontamination and Waste Treatment Facility. If they cannot be decontaminated at the Area 514 Facility, they will be transported according to established procedures under the direction of the Department’s staff. These six units include:

- Solidification Equipment (drum mixer and portable mixer)
- Portable Blending Unit (lid assembly, pumping station, piping)
- Tank Blending Unit (tank, pumping station, piping)
- Centrifuge Unit
- Cold Vapor Evaporator Unit (vacuum, refrigeration, evaporator) and
- Carbon Adsorption Equipment (fume scrubber, mist eliminator, HEPA filter, blower, carbon columns)

### **Disposal of Processing Equipment**

Three treatment units are expected to be decontaminated and removed. In the event decontamination cannot be achieved, they will be handled and disposed of as hazardous, or radioactive waste, or a combination of hazardous and radiological waste, called “mixed waste”. These units include:

- Wastewater Filtration Unit (vacuum drum filter, pumps, vacuum pump, cooling water system)
- Wastewater Treatment Tank Farm Unit (tanks, pumps, mixers) and
- Quadruple Tank Unit

### **Removal of Structures**

The buildings, including the slab, will be demolished and removed. The smaller building will remain standing unless contamination is found and decontamination efforts are unsuccessful. Under those circumstances, the building and the structures will also be demolished and removed as hazardous waste.



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## WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR MANY DIFFERENT CHEMICALS

We are assessing Area 514 for any past releases of radioactive materials, hazardous wastes consisting of metals, oil and grease, as well as mixed wastes.

### Soil

A Sampling Plan addressing how we will look for chemicals that may have reached the soil around the facility is a major component of the proposed Closure Plan. This Sampling Plan includes special sampling in an area where an estimated four gallons of treated wastewater with potential radiological and heavy-metals components spilled in 1992. This material, which met local sewage discharge limits, entered the soil at that time. If it is determined that soil contamination is present and removal is not possible, a specific plan (called a Post-Closure Plan) will be written to address how to deal with the contamination in a way that is protective of human health and the environment. The Post-Closure Plan will be written by the Lab and approved by the Department.

### Groundwater

Groundwater monitoring data from wells in the vicinity of Area 514 show that the soils at Area 514 are not contributing to groundwater contamination.

## HISTORICAL SAMPLING HAS OCCURRED

The Lab is required to do a site-wide comprehensive investigation of contamination occurring from historical activities. Extensive soil and groundwater sampling has occurred around Area 514 Facility over the years. The results of samples gathered from this site-wide investigation indicate that the final closure activity can probably be accomplished without extensive excavation.

## NEXT STEPS

Following the end of the public comment period, the Department will review and respond to all comments. Next we will consider all comments and incorporate them into our decision on whether or not to approve the Draft Closure Plan, Draft Initial Study, and Draft Negative Declaration. If all documents are approved, the Lab may begin work as outlined in the Closure Plan. It is expected that work may take approximately nine months to complete.

## HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED



## WE WOULD LIKE YOUR COMMENTS ON IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

We would like your input on documents that we are considering pertaining to the closure of the Area 514 Facility. You can review the documents highlighted below and send us comments between March 12 and April 12, 2004. These documents can be found at the two locations listed on page 5. A copy of our response to all comments will be mailed to each person who provides a comment.

The **Draft Closure Plan** lists the specific details of how the proposed closure and demolition will occur. It includes a description of the facility, chemicals that will be sampled for, and an anticipated schedule of the order of events that are planned.

As required by state law (the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA), we studied the possible effect of the closure and removal of the Area 514 Facility on the environment. The **Draft Initial Study** contains different categories that were studied, such as noise, air quality, impact to wildlife, to name a few. The Draft Initial Study concludes that the proposed activities will not negatively impact the environment. We describe this conclusion in a **Draft Negative Declaration**.

**DOCUMENTS CAN BE REVIEWED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

Livermore Public Library  
1000 S. Livermore Avenue  
Livermore, California 94550  
(925) 373-5500

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
700 Heinz Street, Suite 200  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
Please call for an appt. (510) 540-3800

**YOU CAN CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS**

If you have questions, please call or email these people at our Department:

Lora Barrett, Public Participation Specialist  
Phone: Toll-free (866) 495-5651  
Email: [lbarrett@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:lbarrett@dtsc.ca.gov)

Mike Stanek, Project Manager  
Phone: (916) 255-6699  
Email: [mstanek@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:mstanek@dtsc.ca.gov)

***Media Inquiries***

Angela Blanchette, Public Information Officer  
Phone: (510) 540-3732  
Email: [ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov)

***Notice to the Hearing Impaired***

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Lora Barrett at (866) 495-5651 regarding this site.

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**YOU CAN SEND US YOUR COMMENTS:** To send us comments, please write your concern on paper (you can use the the other side of this page) and send to:

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Place Stamp Here

Mike Stanek  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826

## Mailing List: Add or Delete Your Name